

# Taaro ke Bacche

A school for children  
with autism & Down's syndrome

Children of the stars

तारों के बच्चे



in Varanasi (India)

**Newsletter – March 2017**

## News from the association in Geneva

During the winter of 2016-2017 in Marie-Françoise's absence, the Swiss association in Geneva continued its relaying work: accounting, reception and mail updating etc. We were also looking for an accountant and we found her: Mrs. Alexandra Dupraz kindly offered herself for the job.

Our team of artists, musicians and dancers from the support concert in 2016 expressed their wish to reiterate the event this year. It will take place on **Saturday 2 September, at 5pm** to make it convenient for children: Indian music, Kathak dance, and also puppetry from Rajasthan by our friends Tina and Michel Perret-Gentil.



*Kolam drawn by children in the courtyard of a Geneva school (June 2016)*

In January 2017 we received two positive responses for financial support from the Albatros Foundation (CHF 10,000) and the Commune of Meyrin (CHF 8,000 for the purchase of a second vehicle).

Fundraising is another major part of Marie-Françoise's work during the summer in Geneva. We are grateful to all our donors.



*A private Initiative: yoga session for parents and children in Collonges in favour of Taaro ke Bacche*

Our next AGM will be held on **Thursday 4 May 2017 at 8:00pm.**

## School life in Varanasi

And so we moved on 15 October 2016. We really appreciate our new location, the environment and the human contacts that have developed.

On 8 November 2016, the Indian government decided to fight against dirty money, shadow economy and tax evasion by declaring the demonetisation of 500 and 1000 rupee notes, which led to great monetary chaos: A drop in note circulation, impossible foreign currency exchange, closed ATMs etc..

It was very difficult for Marie-Françoise to handle, a waste of time and energy. Today the situation has almost come back to normal with new banknotes of 2000.- and 500.- INR.

In December we had an impressive number of requests from new families but we could not respond to all of them, due to different diagnostics, transport difficulties etc. With this regard, the purchase of a second vehicle will become really necessary in October 2017.

So to date, we are following **Vishal, Niyanta, Nishant** and **Krish**.



Shree



Siddaesh

**Om**, whom we welcomed in October has been staying at home since January for health reasons. We are keeping in touch with his family.

Four new children have been attending our school: **Manu** and **Shiva** (age 9) and two younger children **Shree** and **Siddaesh**, both 3 ½ years for whom we have been setting up a 3-day care with specific activities.

In January 2017 we hired a new specialist teacher, Deepshikha, to strengthen our education team.



Nishant & Om



Manu

Our office-library is finally open!

The information flyers are ready to be distributed by mail or by hand, to a number of the different schools and institutions.

This project was funded by a donation in 2016 from the United Nations Women's Guild (UNWG).

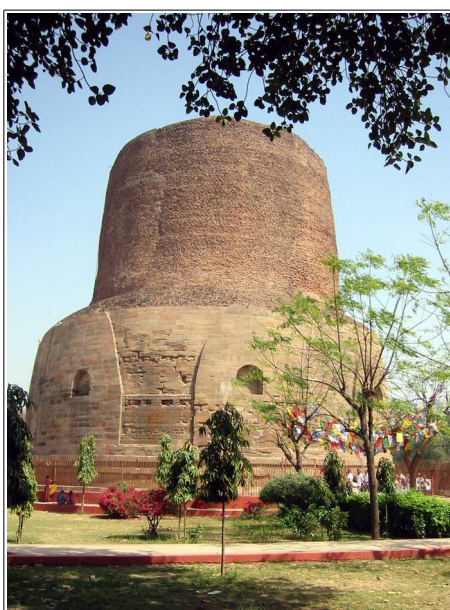
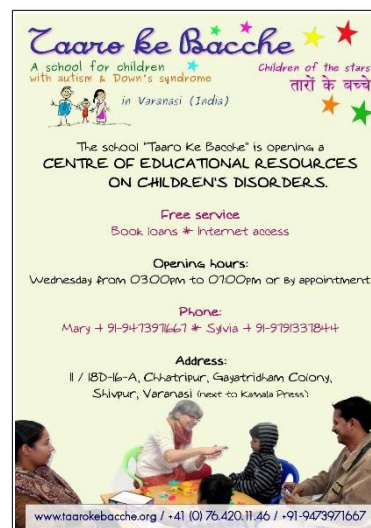
After receiving the donation from the City of Geneva in December 2016 (CHF 6000.-) Marie-Françoise went to Delhi to find suitable school material, furniture and educational equipment of good quality, both in terms of solidity and attractive design.

The educational-entertainment material has already arrived and is working well.

The quote for school furniture is in progress with a Delhi supplier: [www.popcornfurniture.com](http://www.popcornfurniture.com).

On 19 February we organised a meeting with parents; it was an opportunity for new parents to meet older ones. All showed their appreciation for our work and were able to talk about their children's progress.

Before Marie-Françoise's departure to Europe we are thinking of organising a picnic trip to Sarnath, Buddhist town near Varanasi.



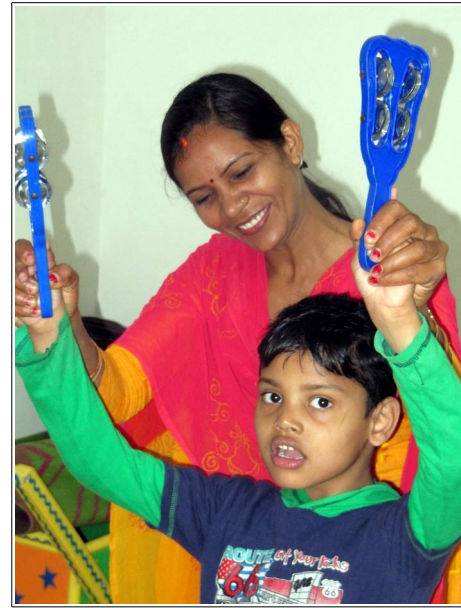
*Stupa in Sarnath*

2 April is World Autism Awareness Day and we will be organising a rally like we did in 2016.

Some more photos of our life in Varanasi



*Preparing chapatis, the Indian bread, for our Monday lunch*



*Deepshikha with Nishant during a musical activity*



*Chilling out*



*Complicity*



*With our music therapist Liz*

**Our website:**  
[www.taarokebacche.org](http://www.taarokebacche.org)